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Casa Home Marketing Leverages ENERGY STAR® to Gain a Competitive Edge – An ENERGY STAR Advanced Lighting Project

Fran Casanova of Casa Home Marketing knows the power of marketing value-added features to today's homebuyers. Since 1997, she has partnered with builders who provide additional value by offering ENERGY STAR qualified homes.

Leveraging ENERGY STAR is a win-win situation for Casa Home Marketing and the home buyer. By selling ENERGY STAR qualified Homes and products, Casa Home Marketing can differentiate the homes they sell from the competition, and the homebuyer gets high quality, energy-efficient products that save on utility bills. In fact, Fran credits the ENERGY STAR program with expanding her business 30 percent faster than projected.

Having experienced the business benefits of ENERGY STAR Homes, Fran now offers state-of-the-art advanced lighting -- **the ENERGY STAR Advanced Lighting Package (ALP)** -- which has further built upon her success.

"The ENERGY STAR program is one of the greatest marketing tools in new home construction today. The ENERGY STAR Advanced Lighting Package makes it even better."

—Fran Casanova, Casa Home Marketing

At the Indian Hills development, by Kentco Builders, the ENERGY STAR ALP was installed in the model home and offered as an upgrade. Homebuyers liked the fixtures and responded favorably, purchasing an average of 7 to 10 ENERGY STAR fixtures in over 95 percent of the homes.

The Bottom Line Advantage

Fran immediately recognized the value of a full ENERGY STAR package. "The ENERGY STAR ALP and



ENERGY STAR appliances solidify the ENERGY STAR program. It enables me to sell a whole package that is a win for me in terms of sales and a win for the homebuyer for energy savings and quality." Fran further explains, "Selling ENERGY STAR as a whole package – the house, lights, and appliances – makes the ENERGY STAR program even better and sets Indian Hills apart from the competition."

Saving energy is a major selling point, given increasing electric and gas prices. Throughout the model, marketing materials promote the energy-efficient features of the building shell, appliances and lighting. Fran tells the homebuyer, "Do not go out and buy [these products] separately, enjoy the benefits of ENERGY STAR as a whole." Selling as a package helps increase revenues for the builder, and the ENERGY STAR ALP alone could save an Indian Hills homebuyer up to \$145 a year in energy bill and bulb replacement costs.

When homebuyers walk through the model and exclaim, "I love the lighting," Fran knows she is providing her customers added value. This is reinforced by the fact that over 95 percent of the Indian Hills homeowners have personally selected ENERGY STAR lighting for their new homes.

Indian Hills At A Glance

Price Range: \$129,000 to \$350,000

Description: 105-unit development. 1,600 square foot Colonial.

Lighting: ENERGY STAR Advanced Lighting in over 95 percent of homes.



Getting the Job Done

The ENERGY STAR ALP is the most visible "energy-saving feature" of the home. To help select an ES ALP that makes the model home look great, National Grid (local utility) and their program representative, Margie McNally, worked closely with Fran and Deanna Yahres of EFI, a local distributor of energy efficient products, to select ENERGY STAR qualified fixtures that suit the décor of the model home.

To convey the benefits of the ENERGY STAR ALP to homebuyers, Fran placed banners and posters throughout the home and behind the sales desk explaining the features and benefits of ENERGY STAR qualified products. The ENERGY STAR mark is on all materials to reinforce that Kentco Builders and Casa Home Marketing are offering additional value. As a final touch, Fran created customized flyers for homebuyers to take home, so they could read more about ENERGY STAR.

As a promotional effort, local utilities offered rebates to new homebuilders for ENERGY STAR lighting. National Grid provided Indian Hills homebuyers up to \$800 towards the purchase of ENERGY STAR qualified lighting for a limited time, and provided Kentco Builders with ENERGY STAR lighting packages for their model home.

Within These Walls

The 1600 square foot, four bedroom, 2.5 bath, model home features ENERGY STAR fixtures from Brownlee Lighting and Sea Gull Lighting, and ENERGY STAR ceiling fans with light kits from Westinghouse. In the model home, 22 of 35 installed fixtures are ENERGY STAR qualified.



Helpful Hints and Sales Tips

- Let the fixtures sell themselves by displaying them throughout the model home.
- Place ENERGY STAR marketing materials that highlight the features and benefits of ENERGY STAR throughout the home.
- Use the ENERGY STAR mark to convey the message that you are selling high-quality product.
- Work through a lighting supply company that will guarantee prompt delivery and a sure supply.
- Order the lighting fixtures early in the construction process to avoid fixture delivery delays and to ensure proper fit in selected locations.

For More Information...

on business opportunities with the ENERGY STAR Advanced Lighting Package, contact Meghan Hoyer, ICF Consulting, at 703-934-3089, or by e-mail at mhoyer@icfconsulting.com.

